

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6923

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, UR, US, CASC, CGEN (GHARIBIAN, RAZMIK)

SUBJ: US-SOVIET MARRIAGES: GHARIBIAN EXIT VISA REFUSAL

1. RAZMIK GHARIBIAN, WHO APPLIED YEREVAN OVIR OVER YEAR AGO (FEBRUARY 15, 1973) FOR PERMISSION TO JOIN AMCIT WIFE HELEN GHARIBIAN IN DETROIT, ADVISED CONSOFF BY TELEPHONE MARCH 15 THAT YEREVAN OVIR DIRECTOR INFORMED HIM MARCH 11 THAT EXIT PERMISSION AGAIN REFUSED. ACCORDING GHARIBIAN, DIRECTOR ADDED THAT HIS UNSPECIFIED "COLLEAGUE" IN MOSCOW "CONFIRMED" DECISION.

2. GHARIBIAN APPEALED ONCE AGAIN FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN HIS EFFORTS REUNITE WITH WIFE (MARRIED IN YEREVAN NOVEMBER 1972), AND HE REITERATED HIS DESIRE RENOUNCE SOVIET CITIZENSHIP (MOSCOW 15769, 12/18/73). CONSOFF ASSURED GHARIBIAN WE WOULD RAISE CASE AGAIN WITH MFA AND ASKED HIM TO CALL EMBASSY MARCH 19 BEFORE ATTEMPTING SUCH ACTION. ALTHOUGH CONSOFF CAUTIONED THAT ATTEMPT RENOUNCE CITIZENSHIP MIGHT FURTHER COMPLICATE HIS EXIT VISA APPLICATION, GHARIBIAN EMPHASIZED HE IS IN STATE OF DESPERATION AND HAS "NO OTHER WAY OUT."

3. CONSOFF CALLED MFA USA DIVISION FIRST SECRETARY TRIFONOV SAME DATE, THROUGH WHOSE OFFICE CASE HAS BEEN PURSUED SINCE
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LAST JULY. CONSOFF EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CASE WILL BE PROMPTLY

REOPENED AND THAT GHARIBIAN WILL BE PERMITTED REUNITE WITH WIFE. INDICATING REGRET AT HAVING TO INFORM DEPT OF CONTINUING LACK OF RESOLUTION THIS CASE, HE POINTED OUT THAT REFUSAL ON PART SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT US-SOVIET SPOUSES TO BE REUNITED IN LOCATION OF THEIR CHOICE IS MARKEDLY INCONSISTENT WITH VERY WELCOME IMPROVEMENTS IN OTHER AREAS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. ALTHOUGH TRIFONOV AGREED THAT MFA WILL "LOOK INTO" CASE, IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION HE REJECTED AS "OUT OF PLACE" CONSOFF'S REFERENCE TO BILATERAL RELATIONS IN DISCUSSION OF SUCH CASES. WHEN CONSOFF REPLIED THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES' INTRANSIGENCE IN SUCH MATTERS HAS BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CONNOTATIONS IN VIEW OF FACT THAT MIXED MARRIAGES NOW ONE OF BASKET III ITEMS UNDER DISCUSSION AT CSCE, TRIFONOV RETORTED THAT REFERENCE TO SUCH CASES IN CONTEXT OF CSCE ALSO INAPPROPRIATE.

5. ACTION SUGGESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT RAISING GHARIBIAN CASE WITH SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON, POINTING OUT IN THIS CONNECTION NEED FOR SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO TAKE MORE UNDERSTANDING ATTITUDE IN GENERAL TOWARD US-SOVIET MARRIAGE CASES.

EXEMPT
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